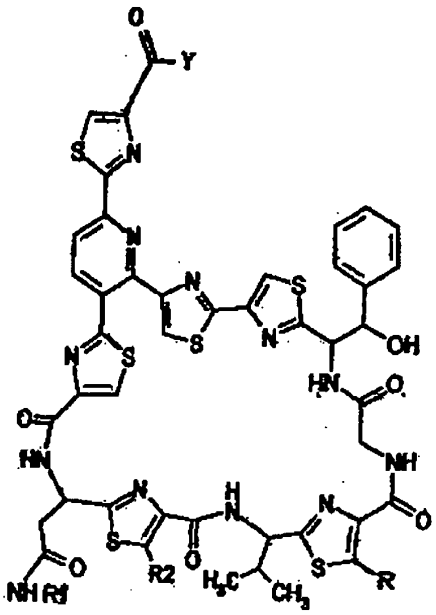
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) Use of the compound of formula (I)



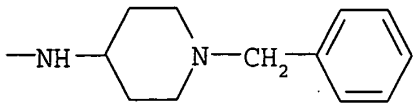
wherein:

R represents methoxymethyl,

R_1 represents methyl,

R_2 represents methyl,

Y represents the group



and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof;

for the manufacture of a medicament for the topical treatment or prevention of acne,

wherein said compound inhibits the growth of Propionibacterium acnes strain at dosages that are inactive against gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface.

17. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof is associated with an additional component that has auxiliary action in the treatment of acne or provides skin benefits.

18. (New) Use according to claim 17, wherein the additional component that has auxiliary action in the treatment of acne or provides skin benefits is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic, antimicrobial, comedolytic agent, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, vitamin, oil or sebum control agent, skin healing agent, and skin conditioning agent.

19. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin.

20. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the antimicrobial is selected from the group consisting of chlorexidine, benzoylperoxide, 1-pentadecanol, cedrene, caryophyllene, longifolene, thujopsene, and derivatives thereof.

21. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the comedolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of tretinoin, adapalene, azelaic acid, tazarotene, salicylic acid, and derivatives thereof.

22. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, and sulfacetamide.

23. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is hydrocortisone.

24. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the vitamin is retinoic acid or derivatives thereof.

25. (New) Use according to claim 18, wherein the oil or sebum control agent is clay silicone.

26. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof is incorporated into a pharmaceutical composition suitable for topical administration in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to 10 per cent by weight of said pharmaceutical composition.

27. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts are salts with hydrochloric acid or lactic acid.

28. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface are selected from the group consisting of Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermis, and Streptococcus pyogenes.

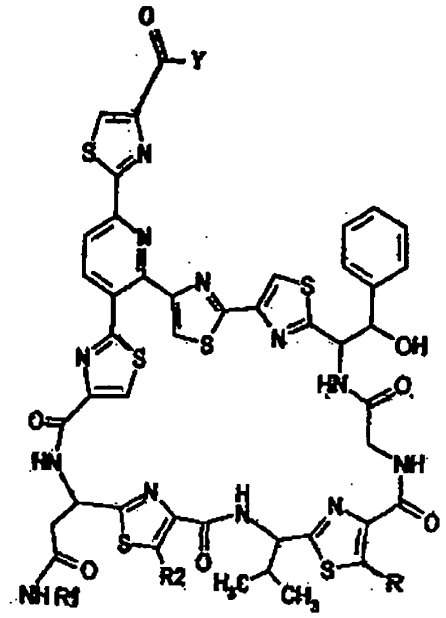
29. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface are resistant to a broader spectrum antibiotic.

30. (New) Use as in claim 29, wherein the broader spectrum antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin.

31. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the medicament is in the form of a cream, lotion, mousse, spray, emulsion or gel.

32. (New) Use according to claim 16, wherein the medicament includes pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

33. (New) A medicament for use in the topical treatment or prevention of acne which comprises a compound of formula (I)



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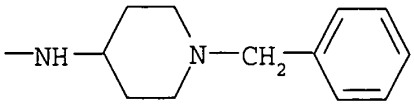


and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof, wherein said compound inhibits the growth of Propionibacterium acnes strain at dosages that are inactive against gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface.

34. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, wherein the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof is admixed with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

35. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, wherein the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof is contained in an amount which ranges from about 0.1 to 10 per cent by weight of the said medicament.

36. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, wherein the medicament is in the form of a cream, lotion, mousse, spray, emulsion or gel.

37. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts are salts with hydrochloric acid or lactic acid.

38. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, further comprising an additional component that has auxiliary action in the treatment of acne or provides skin benefits.

39. (New) The medicament according to claim 38, wherein the additional component that has auxiliary action in the treatment of acne or provides skin benefits is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic, antimicrobial, comedolytic agent, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, vitamin, oil or sebum control agent, skin healing agent, and skin conditioning agent.

40. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin.

41. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the antimicrobial is selected from the group consisting of chlorexidine, benzoylperoxide, 1-pentadecanol, cedrene, caryophyllene, longifolene, thujopsene, and derivatives thereof.

42. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the comedolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of tretinoin, adapalene, azelaic acid, tazarotene, salicylic acid, and derivatives thereof.

43. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, and sulfacetamide.

44. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is hydrocortisone.

45. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the vitamin is retinoic acid or derivatives thereof.

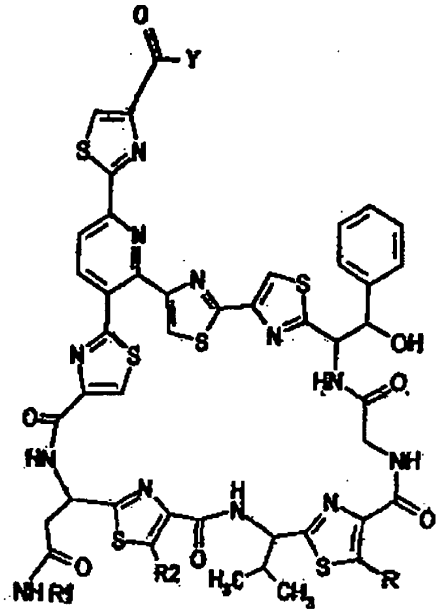
46. (New) The medicament according to claim 39, wherein the oil or sebum control agent is clay silicone.

47. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, wherein the gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface are selected from the group consisting of Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermis, and Streptococcus pyogenes.

48. (New) The medicament as in claim 33, wherein the gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface are resistant to a broader spectrum antibiotic.

49. (New) The medicament as in claim 48, wherein the broader spectrum antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin.

50. (New) A method for treating or preventing acne which comprises topically administering a compound of formula (I)



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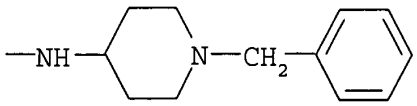

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof to a patient affected by or exposed to said skin disorder, in an amount sufficient to provide inhibitory activity or proliferation of Propionibacterium acne, wherein said compound inhibits the growth of Propionibacterium acnes strain at dosages that are inactive against other gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface.

51. (New) The method as in claim 50, wherein the gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface are selected from the group consisting of Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermis, and Streptococcus pyogenes.

52. (New) The method as in claim 50, wherein the gram-positive bacteria that normally colonize the skin surface are resistant to a broader spectrum antibiotic.

53. (New) The method as in claim 52, wherein the broader spectrum antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin.

54. (New) The method as in claim 50, further comprising the step of administering an additional component that has auxiliary action in the treatment of acne or provides skin benefits.

55. (New) The method as in claim 54, wherein the additional component that has auxiliary action in the treatment of acne or provides skin benefits is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic, antimicrobial, comedolytic agent, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, vitamin, oil or sebum control agent, skin healing agent, and skin conditioning agent.

56. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin.

57. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the antimicrobial is selected from the group consisting of chlorexidine, benzoylperoxide, 1-pentadecanol, cedrene, caryophyllene, longifolene, thujopsene, and derivatives thereof.

58. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the comedolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of tretinoin, adapalene, azelaic acid, tazarotene, salicylic acid, and derivatives thereof.

59. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, and sulfacetamide.

60. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is hydrocortisone.

61. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the vitamin is retinoic acid or derivatives thereof.

62. (New) The method as in claim 55, wherein the oil or sebum control agent is clay silicone.

63. (New) The method as in claim 50, wherein the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof is incorporated into a pharmaceutical composition suitable for topical administration in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to 10 per cent by weight of said pharmaceutical composition.

64. (New) The method as in claim 63, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in the form of a cream, lotion, mousse, spray, emulsion or gel.

65. (New) The method as in claim 50, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts are salts with hydrochloric acid or lactic acid.

66. (New) The method as in claim 63, wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.